



Agency ID: 170000143501 Media File Type LAND
Bureau ID: 1630755017
Site Name: Waste Management - Cottonwood Hill Rdf
Site Address1: 1 Mile W Of Rte 13 & Hillstown Rd
Site Address2: 10400 Hillstown Rd
Site City: Marissa State: IL Zip: 62257-

**This record has been determined to
be partially or wholly exempt from
public disclosure**

Exemption Type:

Redaction

Exempt Doc #: 44

Document Date: 3 /17/2015

Staff: JKS

Document Description: MEMO, ATTACHED COMPLAINT EMAILS: COUCH TO FILE

Category ID: 01 Category Description: FIELD OPERATIONS/INSPECTIONS

Exempt Type: Redaction

Permit ID:

Date of Determination: 4 /22/2015



State of Illinois

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY MEMORANDUM

EPA-DIVISION OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
RELEASABLE

DATE: March 17, 2015
TO: DLPC Division Files
FROM: Kendall Couch, DLPC/FOS - Collinsville Region
SUBJECT: LPC# 1630755017-St. Clair County
Marissa/Cottonwood Hills Landfill
FOS

APR 22 2015

REVIEWER: JKS

RECEIVED

MAR 25 2015

IEPA/BOL

On February 27, 2015, I went to Marissa, Illinois to investigate complaints of landfill odors coming from the Waste Management's Cottonwood Hills Landfill facility. The weather was sunny, snow, wet and 18° Fahrenheit. The wind was coming from the northeast at approximately 5-10 mph.

The complaints were submitted via the Illinois EPA (IEPA) internet Citizen Pollution Complaint system. One complaint was received on February 8, 2015. Eight more complaints were received on February 14, 2015 and one final complaint was received on February 16, 2015. Six of the complaints received on the 14th were from the same complainant. The Illinois EPA has been receiving similar complaints over the last three years.

I started by driving to the cell phone tower on the northwest end of Marissa at 12:15pm. This area is almost directly south of the landfill. No odors were encountered in this area and would not be expected considering the wind direction. I then drove to the residence of one of the complainants. I spoke with the [REDACTED], explained that [REDACTED] was not at home. The complainant's [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] did encounter periodic landfill odors in the area of Marissa. I asked the complainants [REDACTED] call the IEPA Collinsville regional office to discuss the complaint.

I then went to the Marissa Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and met with Bill Yates, WWTP Operations Manager. Mr. Yates stated that the treatment of the incoming Cottonwood Hills leachate was normal and volume levels was dependent on the amount of precipitation received in the Marissa area. A forcemain connects the landfill leachate system to the WWTP. A slight smell of leachate was encountered within the WWTP office building. During my drive around the WWTP, I did not encounter any odors coming from the WWTP.

I then went to the residence of another complainant. No one was home, but I was able to speak with [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] smelled landfill odors from time to time. I asked the [REDACTED] to have the complainant call the IEPA Collinsville Regional office when time permitted.

During this time, a train transporting coal traveled through the middle of Marissa. I exited the State vehicle and stood near the railroad tracks as the train passed. I did not encounter any odors coming from the train. I then went to the residence of another complainant. No one was present. I left my business card with a note to call the IEPA Collinsville regional office.

I then drove south of Marissa along Risdon School Road. The wind was out of the Northeast and coming directly across the landfill. I exited the State vehicle and stood for some time. No odors were encountered during my time in this area. I then went to the White Mill mobile home park. This mobile home park is located on the southwest part of Marissa. No odors were encountered during my time in the White Mill mobile home park and would not be expected considering the wind direction.

I then went to the Cottonwood Hills Landfill and met with Bill Raynor-Landfill Operations Manager. The landfill flare was lit and burning robustly. Mr. Raynor stated that he was not performing any solidification of waste and operations have been normal. The landfill had a small open face and tarps were being used as daily cover. Mike McAlvey, Waste Management Air Monitor was at the landfill the day before taking samples of the gas well field. Weaver Consultants Group continues to perform routine air monitoring around the landfill and Marissa area. To my knowledge, no methane exceedances have been recorded during these ambient air monitoring exercises.

We drove around the landfill. My window of the Waste Management vehicle was rolled-down. I did not encounter any landfill odors. This includes the time when we were directly downwind of the active area of the landfill. After our drive around the landfill, I subsequently left the landfill to return to the IEPA Collinsville regional office at 2:00pm.

The Illinois EPA has conducted numerous investigations into complaints of odors emanating from the Cottonwood Hills Landfill. Waste Management conducts air monitoring around their site as required within their Permit# 1998-110-LF. Waste Management also hired an independent engineering firm to conduct air monitoring around the Cottonwood Hills Landfill and Marissa city limits. These investigations and air monitoring exercises have not produced any conclusive evidence of landfill odors affecting the air quality within the Marissa area.

cc: Collinsville Region
cc: Compliance Unit

Couch, Kendall

From: Benbenek, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 2:45 PM
To: Robeen, Ron
Cc: Keppner-Bauman, Yasmine; Couch, Kendall; Schlueter, Mark
Subject: RE: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Yes BOL-Collinsville is primarily handling any of the complaints that come in on Cottonwood Hills on odors.

-----Original Message-----

From: Robeen, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 2:24 PM
To: Benbenek, Jeff
Cc: Keppner-Bauman, Yasmine
Subject: FW: Citizen Pollution Complaint

This will need a number and final disposition. If it is landfill odor from garbage it should be referred to BOL>

-----Original Message-----

From: Frost, Brad On Behalf Of EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 2:20 PM
To: Cahnovsky, Chris
Cc: Timm, Jay; Frost, Brad; Richardson, John; Robeen, Ron
Subject: FW: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Cottonwood Hills Landfill complaint

Brad Frost, Acting Manager
Office of Community Relations
Illinois EPA
1021 North Grand Avenue, East
PO Box 19506
Springfield, IL 62794-9506
217/782-7027
217/524-5023 fax
brad.frost@illinois.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2015 6:02 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] on Sunday, February 08, 2015 at 06:02:05

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

home-phone: [REDACTED]

work-phone: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: Cotton Hills Landfill

resp-address: State Highway 13

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Strong nauseating odor - problem is frequent - multiple times per month - several times per week.

problem-timetable: Yesterday Saturday 2-7-2015 and Currently Sunday 2-8-2015

health-issues: unknown

doctor-consulted: no

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Local property values suffer greatly

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: no

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED] <nobody@epa084web1p.admop.epa.state.il.us>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:27 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] on Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:26:30

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: waste management

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thick I can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms..

problem-timetable: Right now. Alos this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: no

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED] nobody@epa084web1p.admop.epa.state.il.us>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:17 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:17:00

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: cotton hills landfill

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: The land fill smells again and got headache

problem-timetable: 2 14 2015 now10 am

health-issues: unknown

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Vaule

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: yes

contact-complained: no

will-testify: no

Couch, Kendall

From: Cahnovsky, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 8:33 AM
To: Couch, Kendall
Subject: FW: Cottonwood Hills Landfill Complaints
Attachments: Citizen Pollution Complaint; Citizen Pollution Complaint

From: Frost, Brad
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 7:26 AM
To: Cahnovsky, Chris
Cc: Timm, Jay; Frost, Brad; Richardson, John; Robeen, Ron
Subject: Cottonwood Hills Landfill Complaints

2 more

Brad Frost, Acting Manager
Office of Community Relations
Illinois EPA
1021 North Grand Avenue, East
PO Box 19506
Springfield, IL 62794-9506
217/782-7027
217/524-5023 fax
brad.frost@illinois.gov

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:29 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:29:28

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: waste management

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thickml can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms.

problem-timetable: Right now. Alos this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value They say all authority available has been paid off.

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: [REDACTED]

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:30 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:30:21

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: waste management

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thick I can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms.

problem-timetable: Right now. Alos this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value They say all authority available has been paid off.

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: [REDACTED]

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:31 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:30:40

street-address: [REDACTED]
city: [REDACTED]
county: [REDACTED]
state: [REDACTED]
zip-code: [REDACTED]
cell-phone: [REDACTED]
resp-owner-company: waste management
resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill
resp-city: Marissa
resp-county: St. Clair
resp-zip-code: 62257
complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thickml can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms.

problem-timetable: Right now. Alos this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value They say all authority available has been paid off.

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: [REDACTED]

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:31 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:30:51

street-address: [REDACTED]

city [REDACTED]

county [REDACTED]

state [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: waste management

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thickml can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms.

problem-timetable: Right now. Alos this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value They say all authority available has been paid off.

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: [REDACTED]

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:31 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:31:02

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: waste management

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thickml can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms.

problem-timetable: Right now. Alos this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through-today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value They say all authority available has been paid off.

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: [REDACTED]

wili-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 10:31 AM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED]
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 10:31:29

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

cell-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: waste management

resp-address: cottonwood hills landfill

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St. Clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Extreme landfill gas in and around my home. So thick I can not stay. Removed self and family from area. Burns eyes and having heart attack symptoms.

problem-timetable: Right now. Also this has been getting worse from Thanksgiving 2014 through today.

health-issues: yes

doctor-consulted: yes

property-damage: yes

property-damage-description: Value They say all authority available has been paid off.

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: [REDACTED]

will-testify: yes

Couch, Kendall

From: [REDACTED] <nobody@epa084web1p.admop.epa.state.il.us>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 6:15 PM
To: EPA.Pollution.Complaints
Subject: Citizen Pollution Complaint

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by [REDACTED] on Monday, February 16, 2015 at 18:14:50

street-address: [REDACTED]

city: [REDACTED]

county: [REDACTED]

state: [REDACTED]

zip-code: [REDACTED]

home-phone: [REDACTED]

resp-owner-company: Wast Management

resp-address: Cottonwood Hills

resp-city: Marissa

resp-county: St clair

resp-zip-code: 62257

complaint-nature: air

problem-description: Smell in the air. Causing headaches.

problem-timetable: 6:00 pm 01/16/15

health-issues: unknown

doctor-consulted: no

property-damage: no

employed-by-source: no

claim-against-resp: no

contact-complained: no

will-testify: yes
